



Supporting California's Children

Changing Your Child Support Order

What should I expect?

If your case meets the requirements for review and modification, the local child support agency will review your information and an amount of support will be determined.

You and the other parent will be required to complete forms about income and expenses. Your local child support agency can help you and the other parent work out an agreement for the amount of child support. You can sign a stipulation in the child support office if everyone agrees. However, an agreement between you and the other party that has not been filed in court is not a legal order.

If you can't agree on an amount, you will be served (given) legal papers to appear in court. If you and the other party do not agree to the changes, a judge or commissioner will decide the amount at a court hearing.



The California Department of Child Support Services does not provide legal services to parents or guardians.

Points to Remember

- Parents or caregivers can request a modification (change).
- To request a modification through the local child support agency, you must have an open case.
- A case can be opened at any time.
- Your child support order can go up or down based on information received. The order may not be what you expected.
- There is no charge for requesting a modification through the local child support agency.
- Even if your request is denied, you can still go to court to have a judge decide your order. The Family Law Facilitator can help you do this.

COUNTY
Department of
Child Support Services

What is a Modification?

A modification is an increase or decrease in your court-ordered child support amount.



Who can ask for a modification?

- Noncustodial parents
- Custodial parties (parents, caregivers, etc.)
- Local child support agencies
- Child support agencies from other states

How do I ask for a modification?

You can:

1. Contact your local child support agency.
2. Go to court on your own. The Family Law Facilitator can help you with the process. The Family Law Facilitator provides free legal assistance and is not part of the local child support agency.
3. Hire a private attorney to go to court with you.

When can I ask for a modification?

You can ask for a modification if your circumstances change, such as:

- You are laid off or fired from your job
- You get a new or additional job
- Your income or the other parent's income increases or decreases
- Custody or visitation changes
- Family size changes
- You become disabled
- You go to jail or prison

What do I need to provide?

In order for the local child support agency to review your case for modification, you will need to provide information, such as:

- Income and expenses
- Child care expenses
- Medical insurance
- Disability (SSI, SDI, SSA, etc.)
- Jail or prison
- Unemployment benefits
- Retirement income
- Custody and visitation arrangements

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
Kimberly Belshé, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency
Greta Wallace, Director
Department of Child Support Services

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